

thank Mr. KELLY in his absence, Chairman NEAL, and our staff for all of their hard and good work on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the Taxpayer First Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3151, the "Taxpayer First Act of 2019."

H.R. 3151 aims to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other provisions.

The bill would create an independent means for taxpayers to appeal actions of the IRS, limits the capacity of private debt collectors to target low-income citizens, allows taxpayers to request an identification protection PIN number to protect themselves from identity theft, and creates a single point of contact so that taxpayer conversations with IRS agents can be documented and tracked.

It is critical that we amend the Internal Revenue Code because we have a duty to our constituents to improve their contact with the Internal Revenue Service concerning appeals, identification protection, and financial inequity.

This legislation also codifies the popular Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program and authorizes \$30 million in matching grants for the program.

When enacted, H.R. 3151 will create a better framework for the Internal Revenue Service which will in turn ensure that American taxpayers are at the forefront of our agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3151 to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 bringing it into the 21st century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3151.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 2621, HOMELAND SECURITY ASSESSMENT OF TERRORISTS USE OF GHOST GUNS ACT

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill, H.R. 2621.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass

the bill (H.R. 542) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 542

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL URBAN SECURITY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 321. NATIONAL URBAN SECURITY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall designate the laboratory described in subsection (b) as an additional laboratory pursuant to the authority under section 308(c)(2). Such laboratory shall be used to test and evaluate emerging technologies and conduct research and development to assist emergency response providers in preparing for, and protecting against, threats of terrorism.

"(b) LABORATORY DESCRIBED.—The laboratory described in this subsection is the laboratory—

"(1) known, as of the date of the enactment of this section, as the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory;

"(2) previously known as the Environmental Measurements Laboratory; and

"(3) transferred to the Department pursuant to section 303(1)(E).

"(c) LABORATORY ACTIVITIES.—The laboratory designated pursuant to subsection (a), shall—

"(1) conduct tests, evaluations, and assessments of current and emerging technologies, including, as appropriate, cybersecurity of such technologies that can connect to the internet, for emergency response providers;

"(2) conduct research and development on radiological and nuclear response and recovery;

"(3) act as a technical advisor to emergency response providers; and

"(4) carry out other such activities as the Secretary determines appropriate."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 320 the following new item:

"321. National Urban Security Technology Laboratory."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 542, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act.

Terrorism poses a serious threat to our country, especially to the New York City metropolitan area. Recently, a man was arrested in New York for plotting to use guns, grenades, and a suicide vest to attack police officers and innocent people in Times Square.

Given the complexity of the current terrorism threat environment, it is critical that we prioritize the research and development of first responder technologies.

That is why I introduced the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act. This bill would permanently authorize the New York City-based National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, commonly referred to as NUSTL.

H.R. 542 directly supports first responders in New York City and across the country by authorizing the testing and evaluation of new technologies and systems for counterterrorism work and emergency response.

NUSTL is constantly developing and testing new tools for our brave first responders to use in the event of a terrorist attack, industrial accident, or natural disaster and closely collaborates with law enforcement agencies like the FDNY, the NYPD, and the Nassau County Police Department in my district.

NUSTL organizes simulated scenarios with first responders to test new emergency systems, sponsors research for cutting-edge technology, and works with first responders in the field to evaluate and assist with new tools.

It is the only Federal lab in this country that is focused entirely on helping first responders carry out their mission, wherever it may be.

In each of the last two budgets, the Trump administration has proposed closing down NUSTL. Fortunately, Congress has rejected this shortsighted move, as it would make my community and so many others less safe and less prepared in the face of an emergency.

Looking ahead, in addition to enacting H.R. 542, Congress needs to prioritize funding for NUSTL so that it has the stability it needs to continue its critical work, not just for New York City but for urban areas in all 50 States.

I want to thank Congressman PETER KING for co-leading this legislation, and I thank the chair and ranking member for their support in committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 10, 2019.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman, Committee on Science, Space and Technology,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN JOHNSON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 542, the "Supporting Research and Development for First